

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: PROPOSED EC-9 DEMARCHE ON AEGEAN

1. NETHERLANDS CHARGE TYDEMAN CALLED ON DEPUTY ASST SECY LAINGEN AUG 10 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS RE THE AEGEAN CRISIS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. TYDEMAN SAID THAT THE EC-9 HAD NOT YET DEVELOPED A POSITION ON THE AEGEAN SINCE RESPONSES FROM MEMBERS WERE STILL COMING IN; HOWEVER, CONSENSUS SO FAR FAVORED AN EVEN-HANDED APPROACH TO BOTH GREEKS AND TURKS URGING RESTRAINT. TYDEMAN NOTED THAT THE
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GREEK DECISION TO PLACE THE AEGEAN ISSUE BEFORE THE UN

SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD PROVIDE THE EC-9 MORE TIME TO FORMULATE A POSITION.

2. LAINGEN SAID THAT SINCE THE SECRETARY WOULD BE TALKING TO NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL TOMORROW (AUG 11), HE COULD NOT GO INTO ANY DETAIL ON OUR POSITION. TURKISH ATTITUDE ON THE AEGEAN CONTINUED TO BE FIRM WITH NO EVIDENCE OF CHANGE. ALTHOUGH THE TURKS HAD APPARENTLY REJECTED THE SECOND GREEK NOTE, PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING CALM, STATING THAT THERE WAS NO CRISIS. FOR THEIR PART, THE GREEKS, NOTWITHSTANDING THEIR STATEMENTS, HAVE SO FAR BEEN RESTRAINED IN THEIR PHYSICAL REACTION TO THE SISMİK'S OPERATIONS AND APPEAR TO BE CONDUCTING DISCREET

SURVEILLANCE ONLY. WE HAD AGAIN URGED THE GREEKS TO EXERCISE UTMOST RESTRAINT; WE HAD ALSO REMINDED THEM THAT WE DO NOT SHARE THEIR OPINION THAT THEIR LEGAL POSITION ON THE AEGEAN ISSUE IS CLEAR-CUT ENOUGH TO GUARANTEE THEM SOLID INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT IN THE EVENT OF AN INCIDENT INVOLVING THE SISMİK.

3. WE HAD MADE ANOTHER APPROACH TO THE TURKS URGING RESTRAINT BUT HAD TAKEN NO POSITION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ON THE SAILING OF THE SISMİK. WE WOULD HOPE THAT ANY FUTURE TURKISH PENETRATIONS INTO THE DISPUTED AREA WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SHALLOW AND BRIEF BUT WE HAD NO WAY OF DETERMINING THIS.

4. WE HAD NOT YET HEARD FROM THE GREEKS WHAT THEY PLAN TO DO IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL BEYOND THE CARAMANLIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF YESTERDAY. ALTHOUGH THE GREEKS PRESUMABLY PREFER MAXIMUM ACTION ON THE PART OF THE SC OF A KIND THAT WOULD FORCE THE TURKS TO STOP SISMİK OPERATIONS, THERE APPEARED TO BE ROOM FOR COMPROMISE IN THE CARAMANLIS REFERENCE TO RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM THROUGH NEGOTIATION OR REFERENCE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. BUT THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT BE CLEAR UNTIL THE UNSC PROCESS GOT UNDERWAY. OUR BASIC OBJECTIVE IN THE UN WOULD BE TO FIND THE MEANS TO GET THE PARTIES TALKING AGAIN.

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5. TYDEMAN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT, CONTRARY TO THE OPINION OF SOME EUROPEANS, THE TURKS WERE NOT LIKELY TO DRIFT AWAY FROM THE WEST BECAUSE OF ISSUES SUCH AS THE AEGEAN. HE STATED HIS CONVICTION THAT THE TURKS WILL EVENTUALLY ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW GREECE IN NEGOTIATING FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC-9, AND THEREFORE HE FELT THERE REMAINED SOME ROOM TO APPLY PRESSURE ON THE TURKS.

TYDEMAN NOTED THAT DUTCH AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA WAS
EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT TOO MUCH PRESSURE ON THE TURKS
ON THE SISMIK COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. ROBINSON

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